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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/752,491	01/08/2004	Siddharth Navinchandra Ashar	839-1357	5611
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NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C. 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22203			EXAMINER AFZALI, SARANG	
			ART UNIT 3726	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 09/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/752,491

Applicant(s)

ASHAR ET AL.

Examiner

Sarang Afzali

Art Unit

3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 and 11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 8, 9, 15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 1/8/2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04122004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species A drawn to claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-16 in the reply filed on 7/7/2006 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 6 and 11 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 7/7/2006.

### *Drawings*

3. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Specification*

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because lines 13-18 refer to the non-elected invention and therefore, need to be deleted.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Paragraph [0016], line 24 of the specification guides 59 should read guides 54.

Paragraph [0017], lines 13-14 of the specification foundation column 48 should read foundation column 42.

Paragraph [0018], line 9 of the specification guides 52 should read guides 54.

Paragraph [0020], line 11 of the specification feet 44 should read feet 144.

Paragraph [0021], line 6 of the specification cavities 146 and 100 should read cavities 100 and 146.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshihiro et al. (JP 58163246 A).

As applied to claim 1; Yoshihiro et al. teach a method of axially removing a generator rotor (4, Fig. 2) from a generator housing wherein the generator (1, Fig. 2) is disposed axially between gas and steam turbines (2 & 3, Fig. 2), comprising the steps of: (a) releasing the generator (1) from a foundation supporting the generator (shown in Fig. 2 but not labeled); (b) rotating (by turning device 5, Fig. 5) the generator about a

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vertical axis and along guides (top plates of turning devices 5 are considered guides for holding and guiding the generator in the rotational movement) to displace at least one end of the generator from axial alignment with one of said turbines to enable removal of the rotor from the casing without interference from said one of the turbines (Fig. 3, Constitution, lines 1-6).

As applied to claim 2, Yoshihiro et al. teach the steps wherein the foundation (6) includes a block (the two blocks at the bottom on the front side of the generator 1 in contact with foundation 6, Figs. 1-2) and including removing the block from the foundation (shown in hidden line in elevated position, Fig. 2) leaving an open recess through the foundation and rotating the generator about a vertical axis through the recess in the foundation.

Note that as the generator including the blocks are elevated from the top of foundation, it leaves a recess/open space on top of the foundation in between the steam and gas turbine assemblies (Fig. 2).

As applied to claim 6, it is inherent that Yoshihiro et al. teach a step wherein subsequent to the step of rotational displacement of the generator out of axial alignment with the turbines to allow for the removal of the generator rotor, there is a step of rotational movement of the generator about the vertical axis in order to reassemble and displace the generator back into alignment with the steam and gas turbines and securing the generator to the generator foundation.

As applied to claim 7, Yoshihiro et al. teach a method of axially removing a generator rotor (4, Fig. 2) from a generator housing wherein the generator (1, Fig. 2) is

disposed axially between gas and steam turbines (2 & 3, Fig. 2), comprising the steps of unloading the generator from a foundation supporting the generator using jacks (Constitution, lines 1-2); loading the generator onto guides extending horizontally (top plates of turning devices 5 are considered guides for holding and guiding the generator in the rotational movement); and rotating (by turning device 5, Fig. 5) the generator about a vertical axis and along guides (top plates of turning devices 5) to displace at least one end of the generator from axial alignment with one of said turbines to enable removal of the rotor from the casing without interference from said one of the turbines (Fig. 3, Constitution, lines 1-6).

As applied to claims 12-14, Yoshihiro et al. teach that step (a) includes elevating the generator from the foundation using jacks (Constitution, lines 1-2) and step (b) inherently includes a step of lowering the generator from the jack onto the guides (top plates of turning devices 5) and step (c) includes rotating the generator about the vertical axis and along the guides to displace the generator into alignment with the steam and gas turbines, unloading the generator from the guides and loading the generator onto the generator foundation in order to reassemble and secure the generator to the generator foundation.

Note that it is inherent that the unloading of the generator from the guides includes elevating the generator (by means of jacks) relative to the foundation and unloading/lowering the generator back onto the foundation.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihiro et al. Yoshihiro et al. teach the invention cited with the vertical axis of rotation overlapping the axial centerline but not offset an axial centerline of the generator allowing equal access to both ends of the generator. However, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to have located the turning device (5) in such a position to allow the vertical axis being offset from an axial centerline of the generator allowing more access to one end over the other end of the generator as needed.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

10. Claims 3, 8, 9, 15, and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarang Afzali whose telephone number is 571-272-8412. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00-3:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on 571-272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SA  
9/8/2006



DAVID P. BRYANT  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

9/8/06